

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6618

S E C R E T CAIRO 9367

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF GE IS EG US

SUBJECT: SIGNING OF PROTOCOL: EGYPTIAN COMPLAINTS ABOUT
GENEVA WORKING GROUP

REF: STATE 225092

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH FAHMY TODAY, I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAVE CONVEYED TO THE ISRAELIS HIS POSITION OF SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL. WE HAVE INDICATED THAT, AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE FOR EGYPT TO SIGN WHEN THE PROTOCOL IS COMPLETED AND ISRAEL TO INITIAL WITH ITS SIGNING FOLLOWING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE US PROPOSAL. FAHMY MADE NO COMMENT.

2. I ALSO TOLD HIM THAT WE HAVE TAKEN UP WITH THE ISRAELIS THE VARIOUS QUESTIONS HE, GAMASY AND HILAL HAD RAISED WITH ME YESTERDAY. IN THE MEANTIME, WE URGE THAT THE EGYPTIANS CONTINUE EFFORTS IN THE GENEVA WORKING GROUP TO SORT OUT THESE MATTERS. FAHMY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION, BUT WAS OBVIOUSLY EXPECTING MORE. HE SAID HE HAD EXPECTED TO HEAR OUR POSITION ON THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS THAT HAD BEEN RAISED. EGYPT DEL AT GENEVA HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO OBTAIN OUR VIEWS THROUGH SAUNDERS.

3. THE MATAARMA/ASL OIL WELL AFFAIR CLEARLY RANKLES.

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EGYPT HAD SIGNED THE AGREEMENT, FAHMY STATED, ON

THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE OIL FIELDS IN THEIR ENTIRETY WOULD BE RETURNED. THE ISRAELIS HAD DELIBERATELY CHEATED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN SLIPSHOD, BUT ATTRIBUTED THIS TO HILAL'S BEING IN NEW YORK AT THE TIME FOR UNGA SPECIAL SESSION AND THE FAILURE OF "EGYPTIAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE" TO HAVE NOTICED THE EXCLUSION. (THIS IS NOT ENTIRELY TRUE. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SHUTTLE, I ONCE TOLD FAHMY THAT I ASSUMED HE WAS CONSULTING WITH HILAL ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE OIL FIELDS. FAHMY CLAIMED HE WAS, BUT I THOUGHT IT MORE THAN MERE COINCIDENCE THAT HILAL SHOULD THE VERY NEXT DAY BE AT MUNTAAZAH GOING OVER THE MAPS OF THE OIL FIELDS WITH FAHMY.) WHETHER OR NOT THE ISRAELIS NOW AGREE NOT TO USE THE FOUR WELLS, FAHMY ARGUED, IS IRRELEVANT. EGYPT CANNOT CLAIM IT HAS GOTTEN THE OIL FIELDS BACK WITHOUT THOSE FOUR WELLS. THE LINE IN THAT AREA SHOULD BE REDRAWN. AS GAMASY HAD POINTED OUT, IT IS POSSIBLE TO DO SO WITHOUT MILITARILY DISADVANTAGING THE ISRAELIS. THE WELLS ARE SOME DISTANCE REMOVED FROM THE ROAD WHICH THE ISRAELIS WANT TO CONTROL. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD REPORTED HIS VIEWS TO WASHINGTON, BUT MADE NO OTHER COMMENT.

4. FAHMY THEN HAD A FEW HARSH WORDS FOR MAGHDOUB. THE LATTER HAD EXCEEDED HIS INSTRUCTIONS ON VARIOUS MATTERS. IN THE CASE OF THE JOINT COMMISSION, MAGHDOUB HAD AGREED TO INSTITUTIONALIZING IT IN A FASHION WHERE HE, AS A GENERAL, WOULD HAVE HIS OWN PERMANENT ESTABLISHMENT AND STAFF. WHEN GAMASY HEARD OF THIS, HE HAD RAPPED MAGHDOUB'S KNUCKLES AND CALLED UWAIID BACK TO CLARIFY HIS INSTRUCTIONS. THIS HAD BEEN ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE MEETING I HAD BEEN PRESENT AT YESTERDAY. GOE DOES NOT WANT DETAILS IN THE PROTOCOL WHICH WILL FURTHER EMBARRASS IT IN THE ARAB WORLD.

5. SUGGEST DEPT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO TEL AVIV AND GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS.
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